

UNTO HIS GRACE,
HIS MAJESTY'S
HIGH COMMISSIONER
AND THE HONOURABLE
ESTATES OF PARLIAMENT.
The APOTHECARIES in *EDINBURGH*,

Humbly Sheweth,

THAT where the Profession of *Chirurgery* and *Pharmacy*, are not only understood to be Two distinct Callings of their own Nature, and not to be exercised by one and the same Person, but were also most expressly separat by a solemn Decreet of the Lords, after a long and litigious Debate: In which Sentence the Lords proceeded most deliberately, having advised with the most eminent Physicians, and informed themselves of the Customs of neighbouring Nations: They therefore found and declared, That the two Employments of *Chirurgery* and *Pharmacy*, being two distinct Employments, and both requiring a great deal of Care, Skill and Attendance, must necessarily be exercised by two distinct Persons, discharging any Master thereafter to make Apprentices Free-men in both Employments: And by the same Decreet the Lords did Ordain the Magistrates of *Edinburgh* to appoint Visitors to the *Apothecaries*, of the *Apothecaries* themselves; and when the Magistrates neglected, or did nominate *Chirurgeon Apothecaries* to be Visitors, all such Nominations were declared void: And in such Cases the *Apothecaries* are allowed to appoint some of their own number, to take Inspection of the Drugs, and visit the Shops of other *Apothecaries*: Which Decreet is dated 1682, and Ratified in Parliament.

Likeas, there is also an Act of Privy Council the same Year 1682, Discharging any Signature to pass in Favours of the *Chirurgeon Apothecaries*, but under the Qualifications therein-mentioned, Prohibiting any such Signature should be sent to my Lord Secretary, till it was first Considered and Approven by the Privy Council.

Notwithstanding of all which, the *Chirurgeon-Apothecaries* did not only make an Attempt upon Your Petitioners Rights and Priviledges, in the late Reign, and did obtain a Signature by vertue of the *Arbitrary Power*, then in fashion, in every thing contrary to the foresaid Decreet and Act of Privy Council, (and which Signature this honourable Parliament, the last Session, did most justly reject) but have also, upon Mis-representations, procured a Gift of the same Nature, from His present Majesty.

Seing therefore the said Gift was obtained *parte in audita, & suppressa veritate*, and consequently may be understood to be Subreptitious, and cannot pre-judge the Petitioners just Right provided to them by several Decreets of the supream Judicatory of the Nation, which is the greatest Security the Leidges have for their Properties.

We do humbly beseech Your Grace and honourable Estates, to take the Premisses to Your Consideration, and to grant Warrant for Citing at our Instance the Deacon of the said Chirurgions, to hear and see the foresaid pretended Gift in their favours declared Void and Null, for the Grounds above-represented, conform to the foresaid Decreet of Separation, ratified and confirmed by Parliament: And that in the mean time, there may no Ratification of any such Signature pass until we be specially called thereunto.

